



# GREEN GETAWAYS

## traveling wisely this holiday season

### at work

#### ■ Join a Carpool

Consider carpooling with colleagues that live in your general neighborhood and work similar hours. It's great for the environment and reduces your fuel cost and consumption.

#### ■ Park it!

Pick up the phone and join a conference call, get together with colleagues for a webinar or telecommute, bike or walk to work and meetings whenever possible.

#### ■ Local Services

Need a cup of coffee, sandwich or a good dry cleaner? Walk, don't drive! Downtown Los Gatos offers many cafes, restaurants, shops and services within walking distance of the Town offices. In addition to getting your errands done, taking a walk during your break or at lunch is a great way to clear your mind and return to your desk refreshed!

## make a difference

The Holiday Season for many of us means gathering together with family and friends, enjoying delicious food and drinks, and of course- shopping! With that in mind, consider staying local to do your holiday shopping and dining. The closest retail center to Los Gatos is approximately 15 miles round trip. If each household in Los Gatos made this trip only twice, we would collectively drive over 360,000 miles! Save yourself the stress of holiday traffic and parking while reducing your carbon footprint caused by excessive travel by shopping and dining locally.

The Town is pleased to continue offering FREE valet parking to Los Gatos shoppers and diners, this holiday season, beginning on Saturday, November 7. We are also excited to announce the continuation of 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays through December. Join us on Saturday, November 14 and December 12, as well as every Thursday after 6:00pm in November and December for exclusive deals in various Downtown Shops and Restaurants.

For a list of participating 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday retailers, visit:  
[www.LosGatosChamber.com/SecondSaturdays.html](http://www.LosGatosChamber.com/SecondSaturdays.html)

### at home

#### ■ Take a Bike

Trade your 4 wheels in for 2! Biking to local destinations not only reduces the environmental impacts associated with driving; it also provides a variety of health benefits including stress reduction; something most of would appreciate during the busy Holiday Season!

#### ■ Be Green Minded

If your vacation includes a hotel stay, reuse your towels and only use the small bottles of amenities if necessary. If you do need to use them, bring the bottles home to be refilled for future travel.

Consider booking a hotel that is invested in environmental protection. Several websites provide such information including:

<http://www.environmentallyfriendlyhotels.com>

<http://www.greenhotels.com>

<http://www.istaygreen.org>

#### ■ Let Your Home Take a Vacation Too

When you leave your home for an extended period of time, turn your water heater to "vacation" or the lowest setting, turn off or adjust your thermostat, and unplug large appliances that draw electricity even while powered off. These small practices can save big time on your home's energy consumption.

Learn more about the Town's green efforts at  
[www.LosGatosCA.gov/Green](http://www.LosGatosCA.gov/Green)

Looking for more green travel tips or information on Eco-Vacations? Check out these links:

<http://www.sustainabletravelinternational.org/>

<http://earth911.com/blog/2009/10/14/drive-green-avoid-the-sticker-shock/>

<http://www.thegreenworkplace.com/2009/03/ten-green-travel-tips.html>

learn more

